

**From:** [Peter Baird](#)  
**To:** [HSSframework](#)  
**Cc:** [Peter Baird](#)  
**Subject:** History and Social Science Framework comments for consideration re Mexican-American history  
**Date:** Thursday, April 30, 2015 6:18:50 PM

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TO: History and Social Science Framework Committee

RE: Support for more accurate Mexican American History

DATE: April 30, 2015

FROM: Dr. Peter J. Baird (CSU Sacramento)

Dear HSS Framework Committee Members,

I would like to offer some brief comments for your consideration about the History and Social Science Framework. I am a former elementary teacher in Sacramento and Galt, and for 15 years have been on the faculty of the College of Education at Sacramento State University.

I grew up in California and México and am an author of several books and many articles on Mexican and the U.S. All this to say that I care deeply about what our young people are taught about Mexican- American and Mexican people and history.

It is widely accepted that the current framework is outdated and incomplete, which is why you are part of the revision. Thank you. I would like to encourage you to consider the detailed comments by my colleague, Dr. Duane Campbell, on the current draft of the new framework. He has studied the particulars of the framework and is widely respected as an expert on the subject. He has been involved in preparing new history teachers for over 3 decades and is very well regarded in the community. Please pay close attention to his suggestions and revisions, especially regarding:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The early history of California and its progressive and bilingual Constitution that honored the language, culture and legal rights of former Mexican citizens.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The history of racism, including the Zoot Suit “riots”, deportations, unequal educational opportunities etc.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The history of immigration, past present and future.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The history of Mexican workers in the building of our state, including miners, railroad workers, braceros & agricultural workers. In particular, the story of Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Philip Veracruz and many others who

formed the United Farm Workers Union must be told accurately and fairly.

--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The importance of Mexican and Latino origin people in all sectors of our culture and economy, in particular in the area of education. Mexican origin students are well over half of our K-12 student population and make up the majority of our future citizens.

--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The history of bilingualism in California, from Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Russian and Spanish in our early history, to many more languages now – including the primary languages of many indigenous immigrants today: Mixtec, Zapotec, Maya etc.

Your work is very important for the future of my students, my children (one a History teacher) and for my three grandchildren. Their ability to grapple with the many social and economic issues that face us depends upon an accurate and balanced telling of all those who have contributed to the making of California and who will make its future.

Thank you for your work and for your consideration,

Yours, Peter J. Baird, Ed.D

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